

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07800 071513Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W  
-----081112Z 075438 /12

R 071345Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4839  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7800

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, LY  
SUBJECT: SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" CONTROVERSY LAID TO REST

REF: CAIRO 7787

1. AT DINNER LAST EVENING I HAD OPPORTUNITY SPEAK TO ALI HAMDI EL GAMAL, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF AL AHAM, ABOUT REFERENCE SUBJECT (REFTEL). GAMAL CONFIRMED THAT FAHMY WAS SOURCE OF AHAM STORY. ALSO THAT ALLEGED INCIDENT IN WHICH SOVIET AMBASSADOR SUPPOSEDLY SEPARATED TWO SECTIONS OF SOVIET MEMORANDUM AND ONLY GAVE FAHMY SECTION DEALING WITH IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS TOOK PLACE DURING POLYAKOV'S APRIL 29 MEETING WITH FAHMY. SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S WILLINGNESS DO SO, FAHMY TOLD GAMAL, WAS ACCEPTED BY FAHMY AS SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO GOE DEMAND; HENCE, INCIDENT COULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED.

2. ASKED WHY IN THAT CASE SADAT HAD ON MAY 1, TWO DAYS LATE, USED "MEMORANDUM" INCIDENT TO ATTACK SOVIETS, GAMAL REPLIED FAHMY HAD INDEED TOLD PRESIDENT ABOUT THE APRIL 29 MEETING AND HAD SUGGESTED SECTIONS OF THE SADAT SPEECH CRITICIZING SOVIETS BE DROPPED. SADAT HAD  
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07800 071513Z

AGREED. FAHMY HAD BEEN SURPRISED WHEN SADAT, AFTER MENTIONING SOVIETS IN HIS LARGELY EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH, HAD ONCE AGAIN LET HIS ANTI-SOVIET PHOBIA RUN AWAY WITH HIM AND HAD PUBLICLY PLAYED SOVIETS FOR "MEMORANDUM" INCIDENT. GAMAL ADDED THAT AHAM STORY, UPON FAHMY'S ADVICE, HAD DELIBERATELY AVOIDED CITING DATE WHEN POLYAKOV ALLEGEDLY DIVIDED MEMORANDUM AND HAD

SOUGHT TO FUZZ THIS BY GIVING IMPRESSION IT HAPPENED  
DURING SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S LAST MEETING WITH FAHMY ON  
MAY 5. GAMAL REITERATED FAHMY CONSIDERS MATTER CLOSED.

3. TODAY'S PAPER CARRIES AP REPORT FROM CAIRO CLAIMING  
USSR HAS INSTRUCTED ITS ENVOYS IN ARAB STATES TO  
WITHHOLD DISTRUBITION OF A "DIPLOMATIC NOTE" ACCUSING  
EGYPT OF PLANNING TO INVIADDE LIBYA AND SEIZING  
ITS OIL FIELDS. GOE, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, CONSIDERS  
MATTER CLOSED AFTER IT ASCERTAINED NOTE WAS DISTRIBUTED  
ONLY IN ONE UNIDENTIFIED ARAB CAPITAL AND THAT SOVIET  
DIPLOMATS IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WERE INSTRUCTED TO  
WITHHOLD IT.

4. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR MET WITH FAHMY ON APRIL 29  
AND MAY 5, FAHMY DID NOT REVEAL ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS.  
ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF CASE, HE SIMPLY INDICATED THERE  
WAS NOTHING NEW. IT WAS ALREADY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT  
HE HAD LOST HIS EARLIER BELLIGERENCY ON THE MATTER.  
FAHMY IS CLEARLY SEEKING TO PLAY THE INCIDENT AS A  
RESOUNDING GOE VICTORY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977CAIRO07800  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 CAIRO 7787  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2609424  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" CONTROVERSY LAID TO REST  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EG, UR, LY, (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (EL GAMAL, ALI HAMD I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009